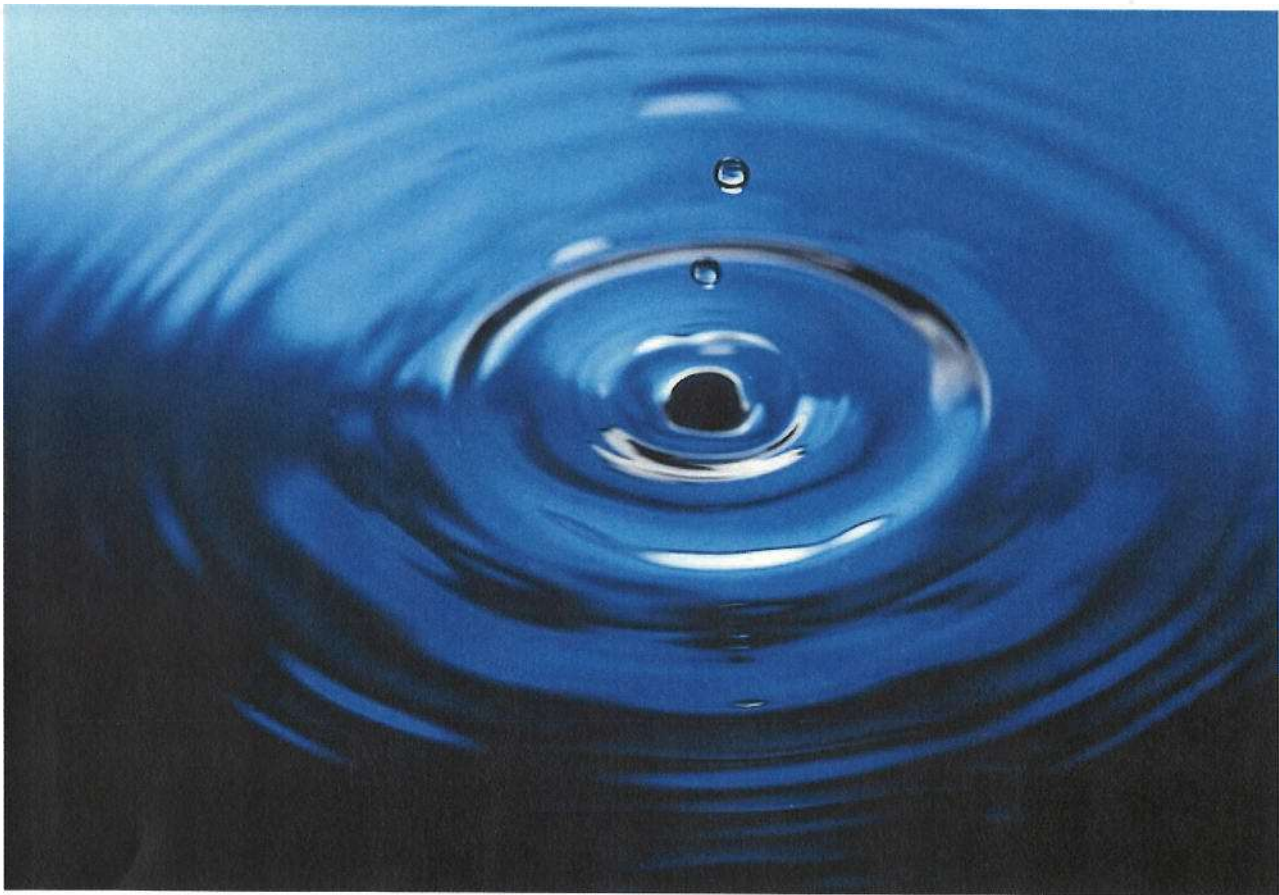


CITY OF OAKDALE

2018 DRINKING WATER REPORT



◆OAKDALE PUBLIC WORKS◆
◆1900 HADLEY AVENUE◆OAKDALE◆MN◆55128◆
◆651-730-2740◆

Oakdale

2018 DRINKING WATER REPORT

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

Información importante. Si no la entiende, haga que alguien se la traduzca ahora.

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes à propos de votre eau potable. Demander à quelqu'un de traduire ces informations pour vous ou discuter avec une personne qui comprend ces informations.

Daim ntawv teev num no muaj cov ntaub ntawv tseem ceeb hais txog koj cov dej haus. Nrhiav ib tug neeg pab txhais cov ntaub ntawv no rau koj, lossis tham nrog ib tug neeg uas paub cov lus no.

တော်လှုပ်တောဝါအံ့အိတ်ဒီးတော်ဂုတ်တော်ကွိုလောအရူဒိုဝဲဒတ်လောအဘတ်ယးဒီးနထံအိနိုတ်လီ.
မုတ်ပုတကကကွိုးထံနိုတ်နတော်အံ့လောနဂီါခါ, မုတ်မုတ်ကတိတော်ဒီးပုတကက
လောအနုတ်တော်အံ့နိုတ်တကွတ်.

ໃບລາຍງານໃບນີ້ມີຂໍ້ຂໍສຳຄັນກ່ຽວກັບນໍ້າດື່ມຂອງທ່ານ.
ໃຫ້ຄົນໃດຄົນນຶ່ງແປພາສາໃຫ້ທ່ານຝັງ, ຮລື ເວົ້ານຳຄົນ
ໃດຄົນນຶ່ງຜູ້ທີ່ເຂົ້າໃຈມັນ.

В этом сообщении содержится важная информация о воде, которую вы пьёте. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести для вас это сообщение или поговорите с человеком, который понимает его содержание.

Warbixintan waxay wadataa macluumaad muhiim ah ee la xiriira biyaha aad cabtid. Cid ha kuu tarjunto ama la hadl cid fahmaysa.

Tài liệu này có tin tức quan trọng về nước uống của quý vị. Hãy nhờ người dịch cho quý vị, hoặc hỏi người nào hiểu tài liệu này.

Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: seven wells ranging from 501 to 581 feet deep, that draw water from the Jordan aquifer.

Oakdale works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact Shawn Nelson, Utility Superintendent, at 651-730-2745 or shawn@ci.oakdale.mn.us if you have questions about Oakdale's drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Oakdale Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2018.

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage [Basics of Monitoring and Testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html>).

How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Definitions

- **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- **MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MCLG (Maximum contaminant level goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- **Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
- **MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **NA (Not applicable):** Does not apply.
- **NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** A measure of the cloudiness of the water (turbidity).
- **pCi/l (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.
- **ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$).
- **ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- **PWSID:** Public water system identification.
- **TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

- **Variations and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances

LEAD AND COPPER – Tested at customer taps.						
Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Action Level	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Copper (09/01/16)	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0 ppm	0.12 ppm	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead (09/01/16)	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	0 ppb	4.3 ppb	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

INORGANIC & ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.						
Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Nitrate	10.4 ppm	10 ppm	2.6 ppm	0.00 - 2.60 ppm	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (12/21/16)	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.07 ppm	N/A	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposit.
Arsenic (12/21/16)	10.4 ppb	0 ppb	1.14 ppb	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Gross Alpha (2016)	15.4 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	3.5 pCi/l	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.

CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION – Tested in drinking water.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	80 ppb	N/A	7.5 ppb	0.80 - 7.50 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (2016)	60 ppb	N/A	3.4 ppb	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.21 ppm	0.05 - 0.21 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

Total HAA refers to HAA5

OTHER SUBSTANCES – Tested in drinking water.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.72 ppm	0.66 - 0.79 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

Copper: During the year, we failed to provide lead results to persons served at the sites that were tested as required by the Lead and Copper Rule during the timeframe allowed

Lead: During the year, we failed to provide lead results to persons served at the sites that were tested as required by the Lead and Copper Rule during the timeframe allowed

Monitoring Results – Unregulated Substances

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The meaning of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

The following table shows the unregulated contaminants we detected last year, as well as human-health based guidance values for comparison, where available. The comparison values are based only on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations or the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. They may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impossible for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant).

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little or no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions - like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity – may need to take extra precautions. Because these contaminants are unregulated, EPA and MDH require no particular action based on detection of an unregulated contaminant. We are notifying you of the unregulated contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

- More information is available on MDH’s [A-Z List of Contaminants in Water](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html>) and Fourth [Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule \(UCMR 4\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html>).

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.

Contaminant	Comparison Value	Highest Average Result or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results
Sodium*	20000 ppb	5.92 ppb	N/A
Sulfate	500000 ppb	5.54 ppb	N/A

*Note that home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should

seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Learn More about Your Drinking Water

Drinking Water Sources

Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban storm water runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and commercial and residential properties.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Oakdale is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at [Source Water Assessments](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa>) or call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lead in Drinking Water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk.

Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Oakdale provides high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
 - You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or you can check by following the steps at: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home>
 - The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
2. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
3. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.
 - Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample:
[Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program \(https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam\)](https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam)
 The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
4. **Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run.
 - Read about water treatment units:
[Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html)

Learn more:

- Visit [Lead in Drinking Water \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html)
- Visit [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water \(http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead\)](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)
- Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit [Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html).

Help Protect Our Most Precious Resource – Water

The Value of Water

Drinking water is a precious resource, yet we often take it for granted.

Throughout history, civilizations have risen and fallen based on access to a plentiful, safe water supply. That's still the case today. Water is key to healthy people and healthy communities.

Water is also vital to our economy. We need water for manufacturing, agriculture, energy production, and more. One-fifth of the U.S. economy would come to a stop without a reliable and clean source of water.

Systems are in place to provide you with safe drinking water. The state of Minnesota and local water systems work to protect drinking water sources. For example, we might work to seal an unused well to prevent contamination of the groundwater. We treat water to remove harmful contaminants. And we do extensive testing to ensure the safety of drinking water.

If we detect a problem, we take corrective action and notify the public. Water from a public water system like yours is tested more thoroughly and regulated more closely than water from any other source, including bottled water.

Conservation

Conservation is essential, even in the land of 10,000 lakes. For example, in parts of the metropolitan area, groundwater is being used faster than it can be replaced. Some agricultural regions in Minnesota are vulnerable to drought, which can affect crop yields and municipal water supplies.

We must use our water wisely. Below are some tips to help you and your family conserve – and save money in the process.

- Fix running toilets—they can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
- Turn off the tap while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Shower instead of bathe. Bathing uses more water than showering, on average.
- Only run full loads of laundry, and set the washing machine to the correct water level.
- Only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- Use water-efficient appliances (look for the WaterSense label).
- Use water-friendly landscaping, such as native plants.
- When you do water your yard, water slowly, deeply, and less frequently. Water early in the morning and close to the ground.
- Learn more
 - [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Conserving Water webpage \(https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/conserving-water\)](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/conserving-water)
 - [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense webpage \(https://www.epa.gov/watersense\)](https://www.epa.gov/watersense)

You Can Prevent Pollution

Many of our daily activities contribute to the pollution of Minnesota's surface water and groundwater. You can help protect these drinking water sources by taking the following actions:

- Lawn and property:
 - Limit use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers on your property.
 - Keep soil in place with plants, grass, or rocks.
 - Cover temporary piles of dirt with a tarp or burlap sack.
 - Keep leaves and grass off of streets and sidewalks.
 - Maintain any septic systems, private wells, and storage tanks to prevent leaks. Seal any unused wells.
- Out-of-date medications: Never flush unwanted or out-of-date medications down the toilet or sink. Always take them to a waste disposal or prescription medication drop-off site. More information is available at [Managing unwanted medications \(www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medications\)](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medications)
- Hazardous materials: Safety store hazardous materials such as paint, batteries, herbicides, pesticides, and pool chemicals. Dispose of them at a proper waste disposal facility or drop-off event. Do not dump down storm drains, sink or onto your land. Learn more at: [Keep hazardous waste out of the garbage \(http://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/keep-hazardous-waste-out-garbage\)](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/keep-hazardous-waste-out-of-the-garbage).
- Pet waste: Pick up after your pet and put waste in the trash.
- Trash: Seal trash bags and keep litter out of the street.
- Winter ice removal: Chemicals used to break up the ice are called deicers or anti-icers. They can be harmful to the environment, corrosive to driveways and sidewalks and harmful to plants, pets and humans. Always shovel first, and then only apply deicers/anti-icers lightly if needed. Learn more at [10 smart salting tips to protect Minnesota waters \(https://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/10-smart-salting-tips-protect-minnesota-waters\)](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/10-smart-salting-tips-protect-minnesota-waters).
- Keep an eye out for car and motor fluids: Seal or repair any fluid leaks that could run off onto streets and into storm drains. Take used motor oil or other fluids to a neighborhood drop-off site.
- Be a water advocate: Spread the word; get involved. There are many groups and individuals working to protect water across Minnesota.

Reduce Backflow at Cross Connections

Bacteria and chemicals can enter the drinking water supply from polluted water sources in a process called backflow. Backflow occurs at connection points between drinking water and non-drinking water supplies (cross connections) due to water pressure differences.

For example, if a person sprays an herbicide with a garden hose, the herbicide could enter the home's plumbing and then enter the drinking water supply. This could happen if the water pressure in the hose is greater than the water pressure in the home's pipes.

Property owners can help prevent backflow. Pay attention to cross connections, such as garden hoses.

The Minnesota Department of Health and American Water Works Association recommend the following:

- Do not submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, or sinks.
- Keep the end of hoses clear of possible contaminants.
- Do not use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device. Attach these devices to threaded faucets. Such devices are inexpensive and available at hardware stores.
- Use a licensed plumber to install backflow prevention devices.
- Maintain air gaps between hose outlets and liquids. An air gap is a vertical space between the water outlet and the flood level of a fixture (e.g. the space between a wall-mounted faucet and the sink rim). It must be at least twice the diameter of the water supply outlet, and at least one inch.
- Commercial property owners should develop a plan for flushing or cleaning water systems to minimize the risk of drawing contaminants into uncontaminated areas.



PFC Factsheet

What are Perfluorochemicals (PFCs)?

PFCs were made by the 3M Company in Cottage Grove and in other areas of the world. These chemicals were used in household and industrial products such as stain repellents, lubricants, fire retardants, fire suppressants and pesticides. Two of the most common uses of PFCs found in the home are the products Teflon and Scotchguard. Three types of PFCs have contaminated east metro water systems, as well as Lake Calhoun and other metro area lakes. They are perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA).

Why are there concerns about PFCs?

While the level of water contamination is considered "low," there is concern about whether any level of exposure to PFCs is safe. A U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) animal study found health effects at even the lowest PFOA blood levels. The SAB also classified PFOA as a likely human carcinogen. As a result of environmental and health concerns, 3M stopped production of Scotchguard in 2000 and ceased PFOA production at its Cottage Grove Plant. In high dose animal studies, PFOS and PFOA cause cancer, physical development delays, endocrine disruption and neonatal mortality. Much less is known about health effects from PFBA because it has not been studied extensively.

What is causing the contamination?

The suspected sources of contamination are 3M's production plant in Cottage Grove and landfills where 3M disposed of PFCs. However, the discovery of dangerously high levels of PFCs in bluegill fish in Lake Calhoun raises questions as to how the pollution became so widespread.

Who is affected by this problem?

Approximately 57,700 residents served by city water in Cottage Grove, St. Paul Park, Oakdale and private wells in Lake Elmo are affected by the pollution. Additionally, anyone who eats fish from the Chain of Lakes in Minneapolis or from the Mississippi River risks exposure to PFC contamination. A 3M chemical also has been detected in Woodbury, Newport, Hastings and South St. Paul. Three landfills in St. Paul, Inver Grove Heights and Rosemont also have high PFC concentrations. The effects on groundwater near these sites will be clarified through further testing.

What should I do to avoid health risks?

Water filters containing Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) remove some PFCs. Many common water filters use GAC. You should be sure that these filters are properly installed and maintained. Bottled water has not been widely tested for PFCs and boiling water will not remove PFCs. Visit the Minnesota Department of Health web site to view their report on which filtration systems are most effective for PFC removal.

What is being done about the contamination?

New PFC drinking water standards were mandated by the Minnesota Legislature and set by the Minnesota Department of Health. The current standards are .5 ppb for PFOA, .3 ppb for PFOS and Tppb for PFBA. This is the amount of PFC considered safe to consume in drinking water. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) reached an agreement with 3M that provides \$5 million to clean up PFCs in the Washington County Landfill, provides \$5 million to MPCA for research on PFCs in the environment, provides alternate drinking water where PFCs exceed state HRLs and removes PFC waste from three former disposal sites to store in a lined facility or incinerate.

Is Minnesota the only state with PFC contamination?

No, seven other states -- New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Alabama, North Carolina and New York have experienced PFC water contamination. In New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina the contamination is from four DuPont plants that manufacture or continue to use PFOA. A 3M plant in Decatur is associated with the contamination in Alabama.

How have other contaminated communities responded?

Some community residents have filed class action lawsuits against DuPont and 3M. In Ohio and West Virginia, residents reached an out of court settlement that provides treatment systems for all affected public water supplies, installs carbon filtration systems on private wells and conducts community health evaluations to determine if there is a link between PFC exposure and disease. The data from the community health evaluations will be reviewed by an independent panel of experts. If the expert panel determines there is a link between PFC exposure and disease, a medical monitoring program will be established. In New Jersey and Virginia, environmental groups and unions are working together to fight for safe drinking water, contamination clean up, medical monitoring and the quick phase out of PFOA production. In early 2007, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection set the drinking water guidance level for PFOA at .04 ppb, making it the lowest in the nation. This is more than ten times lower thus more protective - than the current Minnesota standard.

Water Filtration Plant

On October 30, 2006, the city began operating a new filtration plant designed to remove PFCs from water coming from city wells #5 and #9. Well #9 is the city's newest and largest capacity well. The design and construction of the plant was financed by the 3M Company. The plant is operated by city staff with the ongoing costs paid by 3M.

Oakdale Water Filtration Plant

The plant uses large granular activated carbon (GAC) filters to remove PFCs from the water. Testing by the Minnesota Department of Health showed that GAC filters remove most PFCs from the water. The special material in the filters is made from raw materials (such as coconut shells) that are high in carbon. Heat is used to increase (activate) the surface area of the carbon, allowing it to trap organic chemicals as the water passes over it. Eventually the ability of the carbon to trap chemicals is used up and the carbon must be replaced. Periodic testing of the wells and filters tells the operators when it is necessary to change the carbon.